In the Claims

Please amend the Application as follows:

1. Canceled

2. Canceled

3. Canceled

4. Canceled

5. Canceled

6. Canceled

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19. Canceled

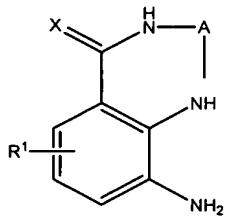
20. Canceled

21. Canceled

22. Canceled

23. Canceled

24. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula III



III

in which

A is a ~~C_1-C_3~~ C_2 chain wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with one or two members selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CO_2H, CO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl or one C atom may also carry an =O group;

X is selected from the group consisting of S, O and NH; and

R^1 iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{11}R^{12}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine,, NH-CO-R^{13}, and O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where R^{11} and R^{12} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^{13} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl or phenyl;

excluding the compounds

9-amino-3-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-5H1,4-benzodiazepin-5-one,

9-amino-3-methyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-dione,

6,8-diamino-2,4(1H,3H)-quinazolinedione,

8-amino-2,4-(1H,3H)-quinazolinedione,

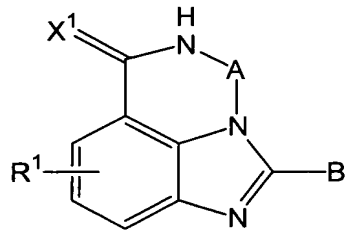
and the salts thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing compounds of claim 24 wherein 2-halo-3-nitrobenzoic esters are reacted with a suitable diamine in a polar

solvent in the presence of a base, and then the nitro group is hydrogenated with hydrogen in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

26. Canceled

27. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I



I

in which

A is a ~~C_1-C_3~~ C_2 chain where each carbon atom is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of

C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, COOH, COO-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl or one C atom may also carry an =O group;

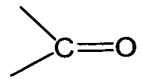
X^1 is selected from the group consisting of S, O and NH;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, NH-CO-R^{13} and O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where R^{11} and R^{12} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^{13} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl or phenyl;

B is piperidine or piperazine, which is optionally substituted by one R^4 or a maximum of two R^5;

R^4 is hydrogen or $-(D)_p-(E)_s-(F^1)_q-G^1-(F^2)_r-(G^2)-G^3$, where

D is S, NR^{43} or O

E is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 

$-SO_2-$, $-SO_1NH-$, -NHCO-, -CONH-, $HNSO_2-$, and $-NHCOCH_2X^4-$;

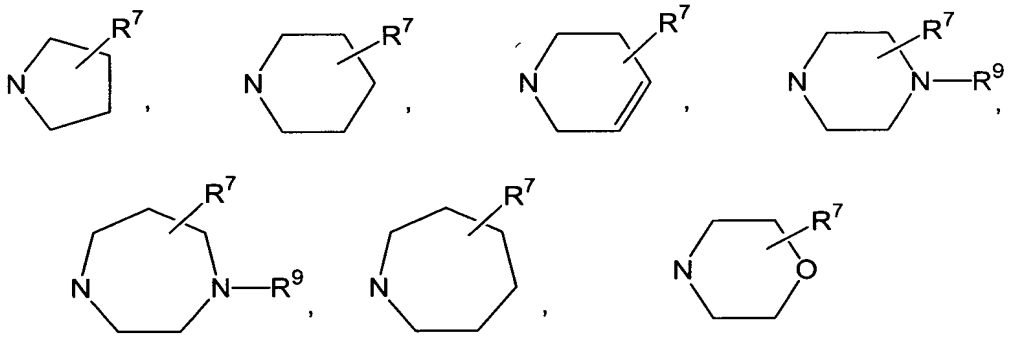
X^4 is S, O or NH;

F^1 is a straight-chain or branched saturated or unsaturated carbon chain of 1 to 8 C atoms;

F^2 has, independently of F^1, the same meaning as F^1;

G^1 is a bond or an unsaturated, saturated or partially unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic ring with a maximum of 15 carbon atoms, or an unsaturated, saturated or partially unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic ring with a maximum of 14 carbon atoms and 0 to 5 nitrogen atoms, 0 to 2 oxygen atoms or 0 to 2 sulfur atoms, each of which is optionally substituted by maximum of 3 different or identical R^5 radicals, and one or two carbon or sulfur atoms may also carry one or two =O groups;

G^2 is $NR^{41}R^{42}$,



or a bond;

G^3 is an unsaturated, saturated or partially unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic ring with a maximum of 15 carbon atoms or an unsaturated, saturated or partially unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic ring with a maximum of 14 carbon atoms and 0 to 5 nitrogen atoms, 0 to 2 oxygen atoms or 0 to 2 sulfur atoms each of which is optionally substituted by a maximum of 3 different or identical R^5 radicals, and one or two carbon or sulfur atoms may also carry one or two =O groups, or hydrogen;

p is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

R^{41} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, where each carbon atom is optionally substituted with a maximum of two R^6 radicals, phenyl which is optionally substituted with a maximum of two R^6 radicals, and $(CH_2)_t$-K;

R^{42} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, CO-R^8, CO_2-R^8, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-R^8, -(C=NH)-R^8 and –(C=NH)-NHR^8;

R^{43} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

t is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

K is selected from the group consisting of $NR^{11}R^{12}$, NR^{11}-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine 1,2,5,6-tetra-hydropyridine, morpholine, homopiperidine, piperazine which is optionally substituted by an C_1-C_6-alkyl radical, and homopiperazine which is optionally substituted by an C_1-C_6-alkyl radical;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, OH, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, NH-CO-R^{13}, C_1-C_4-alkyl-CO-NH-R^{13}, COR^8, C_0-C_4-alkyl-O-CO-R^{13}, C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, phenyl, CO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl, and branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl or S-C_1-C_4-alkyl wherein each C atom of the alkyl chains is optionally substituted with a maximum of two R^6 radicals, and the alkyl chains are optionally unsaturated;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, NH-CO-R^{13} and O-C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two R^{71} radicals, an amine $NR^{11}R^{12}$ or a cyclic saturated amine which has 3 to 7 members and is optionally substituted by a C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, and homopiperazine which is optionally substituted by a C_1-C_6 alkyl radical;

where the radicals R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} in K, R^5, R^6 and R^7 may, independently of one another, assume the same meaning as for R^1;

R^{71} is selected from the group consisting of OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro and NH_2;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6-alkyl, CF_3, phenyl and C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is optionally substituted by up to two R^{81} radicals;

R^{81} is selected from the group consisting of OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro and NH_2;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, CO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, CO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl, SO_2-phenyl, COR^8 and phenyl wherein the phenyl rings are optionally substituted by up to two R^{91} radicals; and

R^{91} is selected from the group consisting of OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro and NH_2

its tautomeric forms, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms, and prodrugs thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 27, where

A is a C_2 chain which is optionally substituted,

X^1 is O, and

R^1 is hydrogen.

29. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 27, where

R^4 is hydrogen or $D_{0,1}$-$F^1_{0,1}$-G^2-G^3 where G^3 is hydrogen,

D is O, and NR^{43}, where R^{43} is hydrogen or C_1-C_3-alkyl and

F^1 is C_2-C_4-alkyl.

30. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group

consisting of 2-(6-nitro-1,3-benzodioxol-5 yl)-5,6-dihydroimidazo[4,5,1-*jk*][1,4]benzodiazepin-7(4H)-one, 2-(2,3-dihydro-1,3-benzodioxin-6-yl)-5,6-dihydroimidazo[4,5,1-*jk*][1,4]benzodiazepin-7(4H)-one, 2-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydroimidazo[4,5,1-*jk*][1,4]benzodiazepin-7(4H)-one, 2-(2,5-dimethoxytetrahydro-3-furanyl)-5,6-dihydroimidazo[4,5,1-*jk*][1,4]benzo-diazepin-7(4H)-one, 2-(2,3-diyhdro-1-benzofuran-5-yl)-5,6-dihydroimidazo[4,5,1-*jk*] [1,4]benzodiazepin-7(4H)-one, and 2-(6-chloro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-5,6-dihydro-imidazo[4,5,1-*jk*][1,4]benzodiazepin-7(4H)-one

its tautomeric forms, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms, and prodrugs thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more compounds as claimed in claim 27 in addition to conventional carriers and excipients.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of treating patients having disorders characterized by elevated PARP comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 27 to the patient.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders are neurodegenerative disorders or neuronal damage.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders are neurodegenerative disorders or neuronal damage caused by ischemia, trauma or massive bleeding.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders are stroke or craniocerebral trauma.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders

are Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or Huntington's disease.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders are due to ischemias.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders are epilepsies.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the epilepsies are petit mal seizures, tonoclonic seizures, temporal lobe seizures or complex partial seizures.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from damage to the kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy or kidney transplants.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from damage to the heart following cardiac ischemia.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from microinfarcts.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the microinfarcts result from heart valve replacement, aneurysm resections or heart transplants.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from revascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from PTCA, bypass operations or critically narrowed peripheral arteries.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from acute myocardial infarct or damage during and after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from tumors and metastasis thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from sepsis or multiorgan failure.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders result from septic shock or acute respiratory distress syndrome.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorders are immunological disorders.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the immunological disorders are inflammations or rheumatic disorders.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the immunological disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the disorder is disabetes mellitus.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a compound of claim 27 comprising converting a compound of claim 24 to said compound of claim 27 by reacting the compound of claim 24 with an aldehyde of the formula  where B is as defined in Claim 27 under suitable conditions.